

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:RADUGSTAD:AG
APPROVED BY S/NM:MFALCO
ARA/MEX:GFALK (DRAFT)
ARA/RPP:JO'GRADY (DRAFT)
DEA:BVANMATRE (SUBS)
AID/SER/INC:MWAMPLER (SUBS)
CUSTOMS:DO'MALIE (DRAFT)
DEA:JO'CONNOR (INFO)
S/NM:RCHAMBERS

-----031357Z 109615 /50

P R 031347Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099568

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS PROGRAM - BORDER AREA

1. WE SUGGEST DISCUSSIONS TO DEVELOP AN INCREASED MEXICAN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION CAPABILITY ALONG THE BORDER.
2. MEXICO MAINTAINS A SERIES OF SECONDARY BORDER CHECKPOINTS APPROXIMATELY 26 KILOMETERS INLAND THAT WE ASSUME ARE STAFFED BY CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE CHECKPOINTS ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH MOVEMENT INTO MEXICO. WE PROPOSE THAT THE EMBASSY DISCUSS WITH
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPMENT OF INCREASED MEXICAN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION ALONG THE BORDER THAT WOULD USE THE CHECKPOINT AS AN ESTABLISHED NUCLEUS FOR A LARGER NETWORK OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION.

3. THE CONCEPT ENVISIONS:

A. TEAMS OF SPECIALLY TRAINED MFJP PERSONNEL OR MEXICAN CUSTOMS OR IF NEEDED, NEWLY RECRUITED PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT CHECKPOINT NARCOTICS INSPECTIONS WITHIN MEXICO;

B. THE USE OF THE CHECKPOINT AS A BASE FROM WHICH MOBILE INTERDICTION COULD BE EFFECTED;

C. APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR CONTACT TO MEXICO CITY AND TO EPIC AND/OR OTHER U.S. OFFICES FOR RAPID INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE; DEA AND U.S. CUSTOMS ROLE IN THE TEAMS TO BE EXPLORED;

D. THE ADVANTAGE OF MEXICAN NATIONALS TO APPLY PROVEN TRAFFICKERS PROFILES CHECKS WITHIN MEXICO AWAY FROM THE BORDER INTERDICTION AREAS;

E. THE ADVANTAGE OF AN INTERDICTION FORCE SOLELY CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS, DIFFERENT FROM THE FUNNEL PROBLEMS OF U.S. CUSTOMS CHECKPOINTS INVOLVING MULTI-RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE PROBLEM OF NUMBERS - APPLICANTS FOR ENTRY TO THE U.S.;

F. A SPECIALLY DESIGNED TRAINING PROGRAM USING U.S. CUSTOMS AND/OR DEA EXPERTISE TO DEVELOP NEEDED TECHNIQUES AND PROPERLY TRAINED PERSONNEL;

G. AS NEEDED IN ORDER TO AVOID DAMAGING THE MEXICAN TOURIST IMAGE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT SHOULD INCLUDE A ROLE FOR MEXICAN TOURIST PUBLIC RELATIONS
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ASPECTS; PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO MET WITH THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY AND AGREED TO A PLAN OF ACTION THAT SHOULD PROMOTE MEXICO'S TOURISM INDUSTRY. DETAILS ARE BEING SENT TO YOU BY POUCH. OBVIOUSLY, CAREFUL PLANNING WOULD BE NEEDED TO AVOID THIS ENFORCEMENT PROPOSAL AFFECTING NEGATIVELY THE MEXICAN TOURIST INDUSTRY;

H. SETTING OF REALISTIC GOALS OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF WELL-TRAINED TEAMS TO USE AS A TEST FOR LATER EXPANSION IF TERMED SUCCESSFUL.

4. IN THAILAND, THAI CUSTOMS HAS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS CONDUCTED NARCOTICS INSPECTIONS OF OUTGOING PASSENGERS RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL DRUG SEIZURES.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT IS INVITED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A LIMITED CONCEPT OF THIS TYPE OF INTERDICTION HAS BEEN OPERATIONAL SINCE EARLY 1975. IF THIS IS TRUE, A BASIS

FOR EXPANSION AND MODIFICATION ALONG THE ABOVE LINES
ALREADY EXISTS.
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